

may become UNO's regional site for Europe, and the headquarters of councils and commissions dealing with primarily European problems, such as European inland transportation, refugees and health. But the main work of the new world league will be done at the new World Capital; and if New York is finally chosen, its heaven-rearing skyscrapers will become the fitting symbols of the high aspirations out of which the United Nations Organization was born.

## THE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

After long travels and careful studies, the seven-nations committee charged with selecting a site for the permanent home of the United Nations Organization has recommended the Westchester-Stamford area as its first choice, and New York City as the interim headquarters for about five years, until the permanent headquarters can be built. This selection is still tentative, and other sites are still in the running, but there is little reason to doubt that the Assembly will ratify the recommendations of its committee. This means that New York and its suburbs are slated to become the Capital of the World.

In contrast to many other localities, neither New York City nor the other towns affected made any bid for that honor. On the contrary, the committee's choice has been received with rather mingled feelings and some open protests. But, considering the premises from which the committee started, its choice was logical and even inevitable. And since this is so, it would be less than gracious to fail to extend a cordial welcome to the United Nations Organization and to thank the committee for the compliment. The Governors of both New York State and Connecticut, the Mayor and other leaders of New York City, and the county officials of Westchester have already expressed their gratification and have pledged their cooperation. If there is local dissent about the precise boundaries and conditions of the area, it deserves a respectful hearing.

There may have been some question as to whether the original choice of the United States for the World Capital was really wise. Its security, its distance from the world's principal trouble zones, its freedom of press and speech, its great technical apparatus, were undoubtedly decisive factors in its favor, though against these must be held the high cost of everything in the United States, including the chosen site with an assessed valuation of \$60,000,000, and the scarcity of dollar exchange, which may make it difficult for smaller nations to meet their contributions and might even affect the proper dissemination of UNO news throughout the world. But since the choice of the United States is now irrevocable, and since that choice was limited to the Eastern seaboard, the selection of New York and its immediate neighborhood appears inescapable.

The Capital of the World cannot be located in a vacuum, or in the seclusion of some backwoods. If it is to fulfill its function it must be as close to the crossroads of world opinion as is compatible with safety, and it must be able to work in a cosmopolitan atmosphere and with the best available technical facilities. In these respects, no city in the Eastern United States can compare with New York. Its transportation and communication facilities are unparalleled. Its libraries and institutes of all kinds are unmatched for research work. Its cultural and recreational resources have made it the cultural and recreational capital of America. Its press stands unequalled anywhere in the world in the complete and unbiased presentation of world news that must be the very foundation for UNO's work. Last but not least, its cosmopolitan population, itself a cross-section of the United Nations, provides a unique environment for a World Capital in which nobody need feel strange, and is at the same time a living monument to harmony between many nationalities.

Perhaps the keenest disappointment about this development will be felt in Geneva, where the League of Nations is to meet shortly to wind up its affairs and turn its palatial buildings over to UNO as its successor. These buildings will still serve a useful function, since it is very likely that Geneva